

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The A recombinant plasmid pBUN276, ~~said~~
~~plasmid contained within the transformed mycobacterium strain of claim 3 on deposit with the~~
American Type Culture Collection as accession number PTA-8190.

7.-10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transformed microorganism comprising ~~a host~~
~~mycobacterium~~ and the plasmid of claim 6.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The transformed microorganism of claim 11,
wherein the ~~host~~ microorganism ~~comprises~~ is a mycobacterium strain selected from the group
consisting of *M. smegmatis*, *M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis*, *M. africanum*, *M. microti*, *M. leprae*, *M.*
avium, *M. intracellular*, *M. paratuberculosis*, *M. ulcerans*, *M. marinum*, and any subspecies of
said mycobacterium strains or genetic mycobacterium variants thereof.

13.-23. (CANCELLED)

24. (NEW) The transformed microorganism of claim 11, wherein the transformed
microorganism is recombinant mycobacterium strain GPM265.

25. (NEW) A plasmid, comprising at least one genomic DNA fragment encoding *M.*
tuberculosis Ddl, said at least one DNA fragment fused in frame with the first six codons of *M.*
bovis BCG hsp60; and operably linked to said *M. bovis* BCG hsp60 promoter, wherein said at
least one DNA fragment is cloned into *E. coli* – mycobacterium shuttle vector pMV262.

26. (NEW) A method for producing a recombinant microorganism comprising:
transforming a mycobacterium with the plasmid of claim 6; and selecting, in the presence of
kanamycin, the recombinant microorganism.

27. (NEW) The method of claim 26, wherein the mycobacterium is transformed by electroporation.

28. (NEW) A method of producing a microorganism with an altered level of D-alanine ligase expression relative to a nontransformed microorganism, comprising transforming the microorganism with the plasmid of claim 6.